

Saunders Supply Company

Suffolk, Virginia

Superfund Program Site Fact Sheet

Type of Facility:	Former Wood Preserver
Contaminants:	Pentachlorophenol (PCP), Copper, Chromium, Arsenic, and Dioxins/Furans
Funding:	Fund Financed

Site Description and History

The Saunders Supply Company Superfund site is on a 7.3-acre tract, in a mixed residential and commercial area, in the Chuckatuck area of the City of Suffolk, Virginia. The company used a 5-percent PCP in a No. 2 fuel oil base for wood preserving operations between 1964 and 1984. In 1974, a new process, using copper chromated arsenate (CCA) solution, was introduced.

The wastewater from a water/oil separator was discharged into a wastewater pond and was, then, periodically discharged to a nearby stream. The stream is on the western boundary of the facility, and flows into Godwins Millpond Reservoir, one of Suffolk's drinking water supplies. From 1966 to 1981, PCP sludge, collected from the water/oil separator, was either burned or sprayed on roads for weed control.

Site investigations began in 1981 when the State Water Control Board and the Virginia Department of Health investigated an alleged PCP-like sludge near the site. In March 1984, contaminated soil within a 30-foot diameter of the former conical burner was excavated to a depth of eight feet and placed in a landfill. A recovery well was installed and the well water was used as CCA process water.

The site was proposed to the National Priorities List in January 1987 and was officially listed in October 1989. Initially, Saunders sought to undertake the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). However, due to financial inability, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) transferred the site to a fund-lead and contracted the Ecology and Environment to prepare the RI/FS. The RI/FS was completed in May 1991 and the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in September 1991.

The selected remedy included:

- excavation, dechlorination treatment, and off-site disposal of the K001 sediments from the wastewater pond and the former earthen separation pond

- excavation, low temperature thermal desorption treatment, and off-site disposal of the site soils and the sediments from the storm sewer
- treatment of the ground water during the dewatering process before excavating the soil
- scarification of concrete pads
- cleaning and slip-lining the storm sewer

Due to changes in regulations, additional site data, and additional treatment options, the ROD was amended in September 1996. The new remedy called for off-site incineration and disposal of the site soils and storm sewer sediments. Also, the ground water collection and treatment system to be constructed under EPA removal authority was to be



operated and maintained.

EPA contracted with Ecology and Environment to develop the Remedial Design Work Plan (RDWP). The RDWP was completed in July 1993 and the Final Design Report was issued in September 1996. During routine design-phase ground water sampling, EPA discovered the Pentachlorophenol contamination in the ground water had begun migrating off site toward Godwins millpond Reservoir. EPA evaluated the extent of the ground water plume and the hydrogeology. Construction started in January 1998 on the ground water collection and treatment system and it began operation in April 1998. The remaining remedial work was initiated in March 1999 and the final construction completion inspection was held on November 9, 1999.

Threats and Contaminants

The ground water is still contaminated with arsenic, chromium, and PCP from wood treating process wastes. The natural ground water flow is toward the reservoir, a primary drinking water source, and a freshwater wetland. They would be threatened by site contamination if the ground water collection and treatment system stopped operating.

Current Site Status

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) redesigned the surface water drainage to resolve problems in the front and middle portions of the site. Construction took place in the spring and summer of 2001. This improved the drainage problems at the site. They are also designing a water treatment plant for the adjoining landowner.

The ground water treatment plant will continue to operate as long as it is needed.

Community Relations and Concerns

A public meeting was held on April 3, 1989, to discuss the work plan for the RI/FS. EPA drafted the Community Relations Plan in May 1991, and the Proposed Plan meeting was held on June 4, 1991. On August 20, 1996, a second Proposed Plan meeting was held to present the revised site remedy. A meeting was also held on September 23, 1998 to present the remedial design and details of the soil and sediment activities.

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